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Ophthalmic Literature

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STUDY OF THE LITERATURE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY.

The average medical student graduates with a very hazy and imperfect appreciation of the extent and character of the literature of medicine. In view of this it would hardly be expected that he should have any knowledge of practical value of the literature of ophthalmology. Perhaps the best that we have a right to expect of the recent medical graduate is that he should possess one good book relating to the diseases of the eye and should know where to look in that for the information he needs at any particular time. This may suffice for him who does not undertake to treat diseases of the eye. For one who makes ophthalmic practice his chief or exclusive business, some broader acquaintance with ophthalmic literature is imperative.

In the past more or less systematic reading has been relied on to take the place of any systematic curriculum in preparing the ophthalmologist for his professional duties. This has generally secured a pretty good acquaintance with one or several of the standard systematic treatises, and sometimes a knowledge of a few of the more important monographs. But this will not open to the student all the possibilities of assistance that the literature of his specialty can afford the oculist. Except in the large cities the ophthalmologist is comparatively isolated. He has fewer opportunities for personal contact with other men who are interested in his line of work, than have those who are in general practice or confining their work to internal medicine or general surgery. Especially dependent on its literature to learn the ophthalmology of the past he must turn to the current literature to keep in touch with the progress of his specialty in the present. In view of this it is as important that he be taught to use this mental tool of literature as to use many of the instruments in his operating case.

In the past teaching of this kind has been as completely ignored as though all medical educators were convinced of the applicability of Dogberry's assertion that "To write and read comes by nature."

A little experience with colleagues convinces one, however, that neither the taste for reading nor the ability to read wisely and to the best advantage comes by nature. Very much can be done, by a little instruction, to cultivate the taste and point out the profitable fields for reading. Some instruction of the kind should be given in every systematic course on ophthalmology offered to the medical graduate

who is preparing for ophthalmic practice. The subscribers to OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE have probably done as much reading as any of their professional colleagues. But we are going to assume that a discussion of methods for systematic reading will be of interest and profit to them and proceed on that supposition to discuss them in successive numbers.

A NEW DEPARTMENT.

As no volume of the Ophthalmic Year Book will be issued this year, it seems proper to include in the present volume of OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE biographic notices of prominent contributors to the literature of ophthalmology who have died during the year 1911. We propose hereafter, from time to time, to continue such sketches of those whose work has been ended by death. Such a department seems properly to belong to a monthly periodical rather than to a year book.

BOOK NOTICES.

Johnson, G. Lindsay, London. *A Pocket Atlas and Text-Book of the Fundus Oculi*. Drawings from life by Arthur W. Head. 205 pages, 45 illus., 27 colored plates. Chicago. F. A. Hardy & Co.

This book is notable for furnishing, at a low price, colored plates of the ocular fundus approaching in quality some of the best representations of the eye ground, heretofore available only in the more expensive atlases. On this account it should have a wide circulation among students and general practitioners to whom such pictorial representations of ophthalmoscopic appearances can be of greatest assistance.

The Ophthalmic Note and Drawing Book of Mr. Head, which comes in the same cover with the atlas, can be removed when filled with sketches and replaced by another copy. Its outlines of the fundus should encourage even the least skilled draughtsman to make diagrammatic records of his more remarkable cases. One can have no better training of his powers of observation. For a work of the kind the text is excellent. But it is a little burdened with algebraic formulas, which cannot be read at a glance, except by those already familiar with them or who have recently made similar formulas the subject of special study.

Index of Ophthalmology

DIAGNOSIS.

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Poulard. Examination of External Eye. *Paris Méd.*, Jan. 13.

Repeated Titles. **Evans**. (Vol. i, p. 134) (Bibl.) Concluded. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 76.

THERAPEUTICS.

Aubaret. Hot Air Douche in Ophthalmology. *Arch. d'Opht.*, xxxii, p. 39.

Gonzalez, J. de J. Physiotherapy in Ophthalmology. *Anales de Oft.*, xiv, p. 265.

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Repeated Titles. **Chalupecky** (i, p. 151) *Amer. Jour. Ophth.*, xxix, p. 10. **Cords** (i, p. 60) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 90. **Ruhemann** (i, p. 86) *Ibid.*, p. 90. **Von Mende** (i, p. 165) *Ibid.*, p. 91.

OPERATIONS.

Harman, N. B. An Eyelid Retractor. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 74.

Layson, Z. C. Convenient Eye Bandage. *Ophth. Rec.*, xxi, p. 7.

REFRACTION.

Bates, W. H. Eye Training for Functional Myopia. *Med. Rec.*, Feb. 10.

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Levinsohn, G. Operative Treatment of Regular Astigmatism. *Münch. Med. Woch.*, Dec. 5, p. 2613.

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Repeated Titles. **Steiger** (i, p. 22) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 112.

OCULAR MOVEMENTS.

Beck, A. Characteristic Movements of Eyeball in Nystagmus. *Lwow. tygodn. Lek.*, vi, p. 375.

Beil, J. W. Cyclophoria. *Ophth. Rec.*, xxi, p. 37.

Dimmer, F. Operative Treatment of Squint. *Wiener Klin. Woch.*, Jan. 4, p. 12.

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Gradenigo, G. Paralysis of Abducens of Otic Origin. *Gior. d. r. Accad. di Med. di Torino*, xvii, p. 133.

Hunt, E. G. Diagnosis of Labyrinthitis as Evinced by Nystagmus. *Jour. Ophth. Otol. and Laryngol.*, xviii, p. 54.

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Sauri, R. Purulent Ophthalmia in Yucatan. *Rev. Méd. de Yucatan*, xi, p. 133.

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Thomas, B. A. Vaccine Treatment of Ocular Gonorrhea. *Ophth. Rec.*, xxi, p. 47.

Treber, H. Silver Acetate in Ophthalmia Neonatorum. *Wiener Kl. Rund.*, Nos. 35 and 36. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 91.

Walter, O. Treatment of Trachoma. *Woch. f. Therap. u. Hyg. d. Auges*, xv, p. 5.

Wirtz, R. Technique of Iontophoresis of Eye. *Mediz. Kl.*, Jan. 21.

Repeated Titles. **Danis** (i, p. 105) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 98. **Grönholm** (i, p. 136) *Ibid.*, p. 91. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 55. **Grönholm and Heiberg** (i, p. 136) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 55. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 91.

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Chance, B. Keratitis Rosacea. *Tr. Sec. on Ophth. Coll. Phys.*, Phila., Nov. 15.

Darier, A. Treatment of Acne Rosacea of Cornea. *Clin. Opht.*, xviii, p. 2.

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Libby, G. F. Symmetrical Corneal Opacities of Unusual Type. *Colo. Ophth. Soc.*, Oct. 21.

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Onishi. Trauma and Parenchymatous Keratitis. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Nov.

Repeated Titles. **Dimitriew** (i, p. 122) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 58. **Golowin** (i, p. 167) *Ibid.*, p. 56.

UVEAL TRACT.

Cas. Irido-cyclitis in Sleeping Sickness. Ann. d'Hyg. et de Méd. Colon, xiv, p. 639.

Cook, W. A. Iritis. Jour. Okla. St. Med. Assn., Feb., p. 384.

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Shumway, E. A. Metastatic Gonorrhreal Iritis Treated with Neisser Bacterin. Sec. on Ophth. Coll. Phys., Phila., Nov. 15.

Repeated Titles. **Arnold** (i, p. 154) Ophth. Rev., xxxi, p. 59.

SYMPATHETIC DISEASE.

Repeated Titles. **Reis** (i, p. 39) Ophth. Rev., xxxi, p. 49.

GLAUCOMA.

Coover, D. H. Glaucoma. Colo. Ophth. Soc., Oct. 21.

Bietti, A. Tension of Normal and Glaucomatous Eyes. Ann. di Ott., xl, p. 573.

Gorbunoff, G. A. Glaucoma as Result of Reduced Intraocular Cranial Pressure. Vrach. Gaz., xviii, p. 976.

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Sattler, C. H. Visual Fields in Glaucoma. (Bibl.) Zeit. f. Augenh., xxvii, p. 33.

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Weeks, J. E. Newer Operations in Glaucoma. (Dis.) Ophth. Rec., xxi, p. 15.

Wray, C. Treatment of Glaucoma. Lancet, Feb. 3, p. 321.

Repeated Titles. **Gilbert** (i, p. 155) Ophthalmoscope, x, p. 91. **Kleczkowski** (i, p. 155) Ibid., p. 91.

LENS.

Charles, J. W. Concussion Cataract with Recovery. St. Louis Med. Soc. Ophth. Sec., Nov. 1.

Gifford, H. Management of Non-closure of Cataract Operation Wounds. Ophth. Rec., xxi, p. 9.

Ginot y Ribas. Subluxation and Transient Opacity of Lens. Arch. de Oft., xi, p. 707.

Jespersen. Spontaneous Dislocation of Crystalline Lens into Vitreous. Hospitalstidende, Nov. 22.

Jocqs. Inflammatory States Following Cataract Extraction. (Concluded). Clin. Opht., xviii, p. 10.

Ribas Valero. Preliminary Suture in Cataract Operation. Arch. de Oft., xi, p. 702.

Salva. Death After Cataract Operation. Clin. Opht., xviii, p. 111.

Smith, H. Extraction of Lens in Capsule. Brit. Med. Jour., Feb. 10, p. 339. Lancet, Feb. 10, p. 388.

Walker, C. E. Congenital Cataract and Peculiar-Colored Pigment in Choroid. Colo. Ophth. Soc., Oct. 21.

VITREOUS.

Repeated Titles. **Elschnig** (i, p. 124) Ophth. Rev., xxxi, p. 40.

RETINA.

Allder, A. E. Treatment of Detachment of Retina by Posterior Sclerotomy. *Phys. and Surgeon (Detroit)* xxxiii, p. 75.

De Lapersonne, F. Micropsia of Retinal Origin. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Jan. 2.

Deutschmann, R. Hole Formation in Macula. *Zeit. f. Augenh.*, xxvii, p. 11.

Ducamp. Tortuosity of Retinal Vessels. *Soc. d'Opht., de Paris*, Jan. 2.

Farnarier, F. Developmental Folds in Retina. *Ann. d'Oculist.*, cxlvii, p. 428.

Fusita. Regeneration of Retina of Triton and Frog. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Dec.

Galezowski. Exudative Syphilitic Retinitis. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

Grandclément. Congenital Pigmentation of Retina. *Lyon Méd.*, cxvii, p. 603.

Hemorrhage of Retina. *Ibid.*, p. 653.

Henri, V. and Largnier des Bangels, J. Photochemistry of Retina. *Jour. de Phys. et de Path., Gén.*, xiii, No. 6.

Köllner. Fundus Changes in Hereditary Syphilis. *Berlin Ophth. Soc.*, Dec. 14. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 64.

Komoto. Spontaneous Healing of Detachment of Retina. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Nov.

Kuwabara. Peculiar Case of Hemeralopia. *Ibid.*

Langdon, H. M. Pigmentary Retinal Degeneration with Ring Scotoma. *Sec. on Ophth. Coll. Phys.*, Phila., Nov. 15.

Mawas, J. Secretory and Nutritive Function of Retinal Pigment Epithelium. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

Ochi. Amaurotic Family Idiocy. (Bibl.) *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Nov.

Piper, H. Retinal Circulation. *Arch. f. Physiol.*, 1911, p. 85.

Sheffield, H. B. Amaurotic Family Idiocy. *Med. Rec.*, Jan. 27, p. 165.

Turovski, K. G. Ischemia of Retina. *Russk. Vrach.*, x, p. 975.

Valude, E. Infectious Thrombosis of Central Retinal Vein. *Ann. d' Oculist.*, cxlvii, p. 426.

Viale, G. Retinal Fatigue and Vision for Light and Colors. *Ann. di Ott.*, xl, p. 669.

Zentmayer, W. Migraine with Ring Scotoma. *Sec. on Ophth., Coll. Phys.*, Phila., Nov. 15.

Repeated Titles. **Komoto** (i, p. 125) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 56.

TOXIC AMBLYOPIAS.

Parisotti, O. Retrobulbar Neuritis from Tobacco and Alcohol. *Riv. Ital. di Ott.*, vii, p. 127.

Vigevani, G. Toxic Amaurosis in Epileptics. *Bull. della Clin.* No. 10.

Repeated Titles. **Costantino** (i, p. 79) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 104. **De Waele** (i, p. 79) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 90) **Mancione** (i, p. 125) *Ibid.*, p. 104. **Manolescu** (i, p. 142) *Ibid.*, p. 104. **Valude** (i, p. 157) *Ibid.*, p. 91.

OPTIC NERVE.

Barck, C. Eye Lesions in Intra-cranial Tumor. *Weekly Bull. St. Louis Med. Soc.*, Feb. 8.

Black, M. Double Hemorrhagic Papilledema. *Colo. Ophth. Soc.*, Oct. 21.

Bourdier, F. Optic Meninges and Primary Optic Meningitis. *Arch. d'Opht.*, xxxii, p. 61.

Cargill, L. V. Leber's Disease and Allied Conditions. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 62.

Jelliffe, S. E. and **Larkin, J. H.** Ocular Lesions with Malignant Chor-doma. *Jour. Ment. and Nerv. Dis.*, Jan.

Paderstein. Drusen of Optic Disk. *Berlin Ophth. Soc.*, Dec. 14. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 64.

Salzer. Pseudoneuritis and Other Anomalies of Optic Disk. *Münch. Med. Woch.*, Dec. 19, p. 2736.

Schwenk, P. N. K. Monocular Papilledema Treated with Salvarsan. *Wills Hosp. Ophth. Soc.*, Nov. 8.

Stilwill, H. R. Double Optic Atrophy. *Colo. Ophth. Soc.*, Oct. 21.

Repeated Titles. **Rönne** (i, p. 42) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 42.

OPTIC TRACTS AND CENTERS.

Bruchner. Localization of Function of Visual Centers. *Arch. f. d. ges. Physiol.*, cxlii, p. 241.

Lloyd, J. H. and **Hammond, J. L.** Visual Fields in Brain Tumor. *Amer. Jour. Med. Sc.*, Feb., p. 241.

Repeated Titles. **Monterisi** (ii, p. 10) *Arch. di Ott.*, xix, p. 387.

EYEBALL.

Green, J. Jr. Implantation Operation as Substitute for Simple Enucleation. *Interstate Med. Jour.*, xix, p. 161.

Hansell, H. F. Streptococcic Bacteremia with Panophthalmitis. *Sec. on Ophth., Coll. Phys.*, Phila., Nov. 15.

Josephy, H. Tendency to Snout Formation with Cyclops Deformity. *Virchow's Arch.*, Dec.

Raspini, M. Unilateral Congenital Anophthalmos. *Ginecologia*, viii, p. 477.

Sheffield, H. B. Bilateral Anophthalmos. *Med. Rec.*, Jan. 27, p. 165.

Steinkühler, M. Panophthalmitis with Arthritis. *Wien. Kl. Rund.*, xxv, p. 533.

Tagani. Local Anesthesia for Enucleation and Exenteration. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Dec.

ANOMALIES.

Kaz, R. Anomalies of Lacrimal Sac and Fossa. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 38.

LACRIMAL APPARATUS.

Luedde, W. H. Gummatous Inflammation at Inner Canthus Simulating Dacryocystitis. *Amer. Jour. Ophth.*, xxix, p. 8.

Pokrovski, A. I. Polyp of Lacrimal Sac. *Russk. Vrach.*, x, p. 950.

Santos-Fernandez, J. Abuse of Catheterism of Nasal Canal. *Arch. de Oft.*, xi, p. 697.

Toti, A. Extirpation of Lacrimal Sac in Dacryocystorhinostomy. *Presse Oto-Laryng. Belge.*, x, p. 289.

Van Lint. Preoperative Use of Bismuth in Tubercular Dacryocystitis. *La Polyclinique*, xxi, p. 9.

Weaver, J. S. Dacryocystitis. *Ophth. Rec.*, xxi, p. 36.

Repeated Titles. **Dewatripont** (i, p. 157) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 57.

LIDS.

Fergus, A. F. Ptosis Operations. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 34.

Morax and Landrieu. Hyaline Degeneration of Submucosa of Lids. *Soc. d'Oph. de Paris*, Jan. 2.

Posey, W. C. Blepharoplasty after Severe Burn. *Wills Hosp. Ophth. Soc.*, Nov. 8.

Weiss, O. Time of Lid Movements. *Zeit. f. Psychol. u. Phys. d. Sinnesorg.*, xlvi, p. 307.

Time of Ocular and Synergetic Lid Movements. *Ibid.*

Repeated Titles. **Capauner** (i, p. 172) *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 91.

Reitsch (i, p. 158) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 58.

OPHTHALMIC LITERATURE

ORBIT.

Birch-Hirschfeld, A. Orbital Inflammations and Their Therapy. (Continued). *Zeit. f. Augenh.*, xxvii, p. 25.

Köllner. Enophthalmos. *Berlin Ophth. Soc.*, Dec. 14. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 63.

Komoto. Spontaneous Orbital Bleeding, Blood Cyst; Krönlein's Operation. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Nov.

INJURIES.

Chance, B. Double Perforation of Globe. *Wills Hosp. Ophth. Soc.*, Nov. 8.

Chevallereau. Device for Radiographic Localization of Foreign Bodies *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

Dutoit. Siderosis Bulbi. *Med. Klin.*, vii, p. 1590.

Gifford, H. Aid to Localization of Foreign Bodies. *Ophth. Rec.*, xxi, p. 8.

Goldberg. Unusual Rupture of Eyeball. *Wills Hosp. Ophth. Soc.*, Nov. 8.

Jackson, E. Foreign Body in Lens. *Colo. Ophth. Soc.*, Oct. 21.

Kline, G. M. Mental Trouble Following Eye Injury. *Physician and Surg.*, Detroit, xxxiii, p. 22.

Laqueux, P. Ocular Lesions Occurring During Birth. *Clin. Opht.*, xviii, p. 55.

Morax. Traumatic Orbital Paralysis of Sixth Nerve. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

Natanson, A. N. Traumatic Hole in Macula Lutea. *Russk. Vrach.*, x, p. 1474.

Okuse. Traumatic Enophthalmos. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Dec.

Perthes, G. Operative Treatment of Dislocation of Eyeball. *Beit. z. Clin. Chir.*, lxxvi., Nov.

Susuki. Traumatic Enophthalmos. *Nippon Gankakai Zachi*, Dec.

Wheeler, J. M. Extraction of Foreign Body from Eye with Corneal Curette. *Med. Press and Circ.*, xcii, p. 471.

TUMORS.

Betti, L. Epibulbar Spindle-cell Sarcoma. *Ann. di Ott.*, xl, p. 647.

Butler, T. H. Dermoid Growth Upon Cornea of Dog. *Ophthalmoscope*, x, p. 72.

Cavara, V. Retinal Cysts (Bibl.) *Ann. di Ott.*, xl, p. 679.

Cerise and Chéné. Melanochromia and Amblyopia. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

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Woodruff, F. E. Pseudo-glioma after Typhoid Fever. *Ophth. Sec. St. Louis Med. Soc.*, Nov. 1.

Repeated Titles. Kuffler (i, p. 127) *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 52.

PATHOLOGY.

Fuchs, E. Photophobia. *Wiener Kl. Woch.*, Jan. 4, p. 33.

Onfray and Balavoine. Viscosity of Blood and Ocular Hemorrhages. *Soc. d'Opht. de Paris*, Dec. 5.

GENERAL DISEASE.

Adam. Myotonia Atrophica. *Berlin Ophth. Soc.*, Dec. 14. *Ophth. Rev.*, xxxi, p. 63.

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BIOGRAPHIC NOTICES.

Baker, Albert Rufus, Professor of Diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, of the Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons, died April 5, 1911. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1858, educated at Allegheny College and received his medical degree in Western Reserve University in 1879. He studied in London, Berlin and Vienna. He was Chairman of the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association in 1894, and President of the American Medical College Association in 1900. He contributed numerous papers to the transactions of medical societies and to medical journals. Some of the more important of these dealt with retinoscopy, the teaching of ophthalmology, the treatment of migraine and other practical subjects.

Bull, Charles Stedman, Professor of Ophthalmology in Cornell University Medical College, N. Y., died April 17, 1911. He was born in New York City in 1844 and pursued his academic studies at Columbia University and received his medical degree in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1868. After two years as interne in Bellevue Hospital he studied in Germany and France and returned in 1871 to take up practice in New York, in which year he became a member of the American Ophthalmological Society. After a short residence in St Louis he returned to New York. He held various hospital positions, the most important being those connected with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. He took an active part in local medical associations, clubs and patriotic societies. He was president of the American Ophthalmological Society from 1903-1905. He published upwards of one hundred articles in society transactions ophthalmic and medical journals. (See Bibliography, *Tr. Amer. Ophth. Soc.*, Vol. xii, p. 696). He edited an American edition of the work of J. Solberg Wells and contributed to systematic works on surgery and ophthalmology. His more important contributions to ophthalmic science dealt with tumors of the orbit, operation for vitreous opacities and gouty lesions of the

retina and choroid. But all his writings were based on careful clinical observation and brought forth definite conclusions of practical value.

Bull, George J., of Paris, died January 1, 1911, aged 62 years. He was born in Canada and graduated at McGill University, Montreal, in 1869. After eight years in general practice at Worcester, Mass., he took up the practice of ophthalmology at Denver, Colo., but soon removed to New York City; 1886 he settled in Paris, where he became associated in practice with Javal. He wrote chiefly on anomalies of refraction and ocular movements. His paper upon the effects of lid pressure upon the cornea was probably his most valuable contribution to ophthalmology.

Byington, John F., Ophthalmic and Aural Surgeon to the Battle Creek Sanitarium, died January 17, 1911. He had contributed a few clinical papers to medical journals.

Chibret, Jean-Baptiste-Paul-Louis, founder of the Société Française d'Ophthalmologie, died July 27, 1911, at the age of 67 years. He was born at Nevers, France. He studied medicine at Strasbourg, where he graduated in 1868. He served as medical officer in the army in Algeria, returning to Paris in 1871, and settling in Clermont-Ferrand in 1875. The formation of the French Ophthalmological Society was projected in 1879 and accomplished in 1882. The best of his many papers on ophthalmic subjects are included in the bibliography by Sulzer (*Annales d'Oculistique*, October, 1911). He will be remembered chiefly for his contributions on skiascopy, one of which proposed this designation for the test, and upon transplantation of the eye of the rabbit. He was actively interested in sanitation, an enthusiastic bicyclist and an active member of the French Alpine Club. He published accounts of journeys in Scandinavia and Russia.

Cienfuegos, Maximo, Professor of Ophthalmology in the University at Santiago, Chili, died early in 1911.

Connor, Leartus, of Detroit, died April 16, 1911. He was born in Orange County, N. Y., educated at Williams College, and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1870. The next year he became connected with the Detroit Medical College, at first as lecturer on chemistry, subsequently as Professor of Physiology and Clinical Medicine, and in 1878 Professor of Ophthalmology and Otology. He wrote numerous papers upon ophthalmic subjects, and was particularly influential in having the correction of the simpler errors of refraction undertaken by general practitioners of medicine. From 1871 to 1895 he edited the medical journal which came to be known as *The American Lancet*. He was President of the American Academy of Medicine in 1888. He was active in the reorganization of the American Medical Association and chairman of its Section on Ophthalmology in 1891.

Dastot, of Mons, at one time President of the Société Belge d'Ophthalmologie, died early in the year 1911, at the age of 73, after fifty years spent in medical and ophthalmic practice.

Emmert, E., teacher of ophthalmology at Bern, died late in the year 1911 at the age of 67 years. He was a prolific writer, best known for his papers on physiologic optics and school hygiene, and continued his literary activity up to the close of his life.

Fryer, Blencowe, E., military and ophthalmic surgeon, died August 12, 1911, aged 74 years. He was born in England, but came to America in childhood and graduated in the University of Pennsylvania, department of medicine, in 1859. Two years later he was appointed assistant surgeon in the United States army, and rose to the rank of Surgeon and Major before his retirement in 1887. He then located in Kansas City and took up the practice of ophthalmology, becoming professor of that branch in the local medical colleges. Although he wrote but little, Doctor Fryer was a widely read student. He was editorially connected

with "Ophthalmology" from the time of its inception until his death, being in charge of the department of French literature.

Fukala, Vincenz, teacher of ophthalmology in Vienna, died October 27th, aged 65 years. He was widely known for successfully introducing the practice of removal of the crystalline lens for high myopia.

Gagarin, W. N., Ophthalmic Surgeon of St. Petersburg, died early in 1911.

Gradle, Henry, Professor of Diseases of the Eye and Ear in the Northwestern University Medical School, died April, 1911, aged 54 years. He was born in Germany, came to Chicago when a child and graduated in medicine from the school with which he was subsequently identified, in 1874. For some years he held the Professorship of Physiology. He was Secretary of the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association in 1893 and President of the Chicago Ophthalmological Society. His writings on ophthalmic subjects were published in various journals.

Griffin, O. A., at one time Demonstrator of Ophthalmology in the University of Michigan, died October 28, 1911, aged 39 years.

Heath, Clarence Wright, Instructor in Ophthalmology in the Chicago Polyclinic, died January 16, 1911, aged 40 years.

Hubbell, Alvin Allace, of Buffalo, N. Y., died August 10, 1911, aged 65 years. He was born in New York and graduated in medicine in the University of Buffalo in 1876. He became Professor of Ophthalmology and Otology in the Niagara University in 1883 and continued to hold this teaching position until the last year of his life. He was Chairman of the Section on Ophthalmology of the American Medical Association in 1909. He applied the electro-magnet to the removal of steel from the eyeball in 1884. His book on "Ophthalmology in America from 1800 to 1870" was an important contribution to professional history. He was active in general medical societies and was chosen President of the New York State Medical Association in 1902.

Jackson, J. Hughlings, who contributed many important observations on ocular conditions dependent on disease of the central nervous system, died October 7, 1911, at the age of 76 years. His professional work was chiefly in the field of neurology. But, trained at Moorfields to use the ophthalmoscope, he made many important observations with it, as on the conditions of the retinal vessels during the epileptic seizure and on choked disk associated with gross disease within the cranium. He was a charter member of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, delivered the Bowman Lecture in 1885 and in 1889 was elected its President. Many of his ophthalmic observations were recorded in earlier volumes of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital Reports.

Kipp, Charles J., was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1835 and died January 13, 1911. He came to the United States at the age of 19, and graduated in medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1861. He entered the medical service of the United States army and rose to the rank of Surgeon and Major before he resigned in 1867. Two years later he began the practice of ophthalmology and otology in Newark, N. J., where he afterwards established the Newark Eye and Ear Infirmary. Among his many clinical contributions to the literature, those regarding the connection of dendritic keratitis with malaria and of optic neuritis with otitic thrombosis of the lateral sinus are among the most important. Many of his papers appeared in the Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society, of which he was President in 1908. He was also active in the general organizations of the medical profession, was President of the New Jersey State Medical Society and the New Jersey State Tuberculosis Sanitarium and active in the affairs of the American Medical Association.

Knapp, Herman, a leader in ophthalmology, both in Europe and

America, died April 30, 1911, in his eightieth year. He was born in Dauborn, Prussia, and after studying in the universities of München, Würzburg, Berlin, Leipsic and Zürich, took his degree in medicine at Giessen, in 1857. In that formative period of modern ophthalmology he at once took a prominent position. His work on the "Optical Constants of the Eye" was the thesis on which he was recognized as a teacher at Heidelberg in 1859. In 1865 he became Professor of Ophthalmology in Heidelberg. In 1867 he visited the United States, and a year later resigned his professorship to settle in New York. Here he established the institution now known as The New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute, in which have been trained more ophthalmologists than in any other similar institution in America. In 1869, in connection with Prof. Moos, of Heidelberg, he started the "Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology," subsequently separated in two journals, the oldest ophthalmic journal still published in the English language. It sprang into existence Minerva-like, fully developed along the lines of its German predecessors. The first volume of more than 700 pages numbered among its contributors Liebreich, Becker, De Wecker, Berlin, Noyes, E. Williams, H. W. Williams, Pope and Pray (astigmatic letters), besides its talented editor. It contained five colored plates of the fundus, besides other plates and numerous illustrations. In the next forty years the sustaining of this journal, with money as well as time and energy, was one of Doctor Knapp's most important contributions to ophthalmology. In it appeared the greater number of his papers, although he was a regular contributor to the Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society, and published much through other channels. His reports of series of cataract operations, begun in Graefe's Archives, continued until well on in the second thousand. His advocacy of extraction without iridectomy gained for that method wide adoption. He also urged the linear opening of the capsule and the cutting instead of tearing a secondary capsular cataract. With Loring he improved the refraction ophthalmoscope and helped to bring into general use the direct method of ophthalmoscopy. The more than two hundred papers which he published were, after the first few years of his career as an author, almost wholly clinical and practical. With him ended the work of that group of men who founded modern ophthalmology.

Königshofer, Oskar, Professor of Veterinary Ophthalmology at Stuttgart, died April 11, 1911, aged 59 years. He was editor of "Die Ophthalmologische Klinik," published for several years in connection with "La Clinique Ophtalmologique."

Koyle, Frank Harcourt, an occasional writer upon ophthalmic subjects, died in August, 1911, at the age of 46 years, at his home in Horne, N. Y.

Kraemer, Adolph, a German ophthalmologist, who for some years had lived a part of the time in San Diego, Calif., died in that place, January 24, 1911, aged 46 years.

Logetschnikoff, S., Director of the Moscow Ophthalmic Hospital, died March 19, 1911. He was one of the older Russian ophthalmologists and President of the Moscow Ophthalmological Society.

Manz, Wilhelm of Freiberg, Germany, died April 20, 1911, at the age of 78 years. He graduated at Freiberg in 1858, became Professor Extraordinary in 1861, and Full Professor in 1868, a position he continued to hold until 1901. His chief contributions to ophthalmology were upon the development and malformations of the human eye, tuberculosis of the choroid and the stasis theory of choked disk.

v. Michel, Julius, Director of the Royal University Eye Clinic in Berlin, died September 28, 1911, aged 68 years. After working in Zürich with Horner and in Leipsic with Ludwig and Schwalbe he became a recognized teacher of ophthalmology, and in 1873 Professor at Erlangen. Six years later he was made Professor at Würzburg, where

he worked for twenty years, until called to Berlin to succeed Schweigger. He was author of a text-book of the diseases of the eye and a section on diseases of the lids in the Graefe-Saemisch Handbook. He was also associated with Kuhnt in establishing the "Zeitschrift für Augenheilkunde," but his most important contribution to the literature of ophthalmology was his editing for many years the "Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte im Gebiete der Ophthalmologie," established by A. Nagel and commonly known as "Nagel's Jahresbericht."

Nagel, W., the physiologist, known for his researches on physiology of the retina and editor of the third edition of Helmholtz' *Handbuch der Physiologischen Optik*, died early in 1911.

Oliver, Charles Augustus, of Philadelphia, an indefatigable worker in ophthalmology, died April 8, 1911, aged 57 years. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and educated in Philadelphia, receiving his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1876. In 1878 he began to assist his former teacher, William F. Norris, in his service at Wills Eye Hospital, and was elected attending surgeon to that institution in 1890. His close association with Doctor Norris continued for many years and included joint-authorship of a text-book of ophthalmology and the editing of the four-volume "System of Diseases of the Eye." He was clinical professor of ophthalmology in the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. He was connected editorially with several ophthalmic journals, edited an English edition of "Ohlemann's Ocular Therapeutics," and attained membership in numerous medical societies.

Power, Henry, ophthalmologist, anatomist and physiologist, died January 18, 1911, aged 81 years. He was educated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where he subsequently served as Ophthalmic Surgeon. He was also Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. He was one of the original members of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and its President 1890-1893. He was a brilliant lecturer and numbered among his students several of the leading ophthalmologists of Great Britain.

Rava, Giacobbe, Professor of Ophthalmology at Sassari since 1864, died at the age of 74 years.

Reymond, Carlo, Professor of Ophthalmology of Turin, Italy, died July 9, 1911, aged 74 years. He studied medicine in Turin and ophthalmology at Paris under Desmarres and Sichel. He became assistant to Sperino and Professor in 1876. In his thirty-five years of active teaching he sent out a very large number of pupils who became successful ophthalmologists in Italy and many other countries. A list of more than one hundred of these is given in the "Annali di Ottalmologia," xl, p. 567. He was an active participant in ophthalmic congresses and a prolific writer. His work on physiologic optics has been widely followed.

Reid, Thomas, of Glasgow, died March 23, 1911, in his eighty-second year. He graduated in medicine at Glasgow in 1857, and took up ophthalmology at the Glasgow Eye Infirmary, where he became surgeon in 1867, and senior surgeon in 1884. In 1869 he became lecturer on ophthalmology at the Glasgow University. He was best known by the practical pocket ophthalmometer which he devised and for his success in microscopic and microphotographic work. He retired from his public appointments in 1900.

Shaw, Henry Lyman, of Boston, died April 2, 1911, aged 73 years. He was a graduate of Harvard Medical School in 1859. From 1861 he was assistant surgeon, and from 1864 surgeon, to the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary. From the latter position he retired in 1892. He was a member of the American Ophthalmological Society from 1866 until the time of his death.

Szulislawski, Adam, Professor of Ophthalmology at Lemberg, in Galicia, died November 22, aged 46 years.

Thompson, John Tatham, of Cardiff, Wales, died April 28, 1911, aged 54 years. He took his medical degree at Edinburgh and took up ophthalmology under Argyll-Robertson. He had been President of the South Wales and Monmouthshire Branch of the British Medical Association and the Cardiff Naturalists Society. He was Vice President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom. He published some important practical papers, but was probably most widely known for the beautiful illustrations he contributed to Woodhead's "Practical Pathology" and Berry's "Diseases of the Eye."

Trow, Charles, of Toronto, Canada, died October 8, 1911, aged 55 years. He was Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Otology in the University of Toronto.

Abstracts From Foreign Journals

Bergmeister, R. *Histology of Choked Disk.* (Zeitschrift für Augenheilkunde, xxv, p. 49).

The patient, a man of 22, in whom cerebral symptoms had accompanied the development of bilateral choked disk, died three days after an attempt at extirpation of the tumor. At autopsy this was found in the region of the corpora quadrigemina and pressing on the third ventricle. Histologic preparations showed the case to belong to the class in which acute inflammatory changes are entirely lacking. The swelling of the disk was due mainly to infiltration with fluid which was shown by staining to have a high albumin content; and in part to marked development of the interstitial tissue. In spite of the high-grade edema of the disk, the nerve trunk showed relatively slight edema. The high albumin content of the disk may have been due to long persistence of the edema and may itself in turn have retarded shrinkage after the trephining. It is also possible that the relief afforded by trephining made itself felt first on the nerve trunk.

Denig, R. *Anchoring of Suture in Corneal Limbus in Advancement.* (Graefe's Arch. f. Ophth., lxxx, p. 164).

Scleral sutures often tear out. If placed deeply enough to ensure their holding, they perforate, or nearly so. Such perforation does, in fact, and probably much more often than we realize, occur. But Denig has never seen disaster result. He has demonstrated on cattle's eyes the frequency of perforation. Proximity of the uveal tract to the suture renders perforation not an indifferent matter. After experiments on rabbits' eyes he has done thirty-four operations on human eyes with the suture passed through the corneal limbus.

He incises the conjunctiva close to the corneal margin opposite the muscle insertion and lays bare the limbus. An assistant fixes the eye at the upper corneal margin, and the operator in passing stitch at lower corneal margin obliquely opposite to the counter puncture of the needle. A silk thread number 3 is armed with two number 2 needles. One needle is passed obliquely through the limbus 2mm. above (or below) the horizontal diameter of the cornea. The point appears in the anterior chamber and is then passed obliquely out through the limbus 2mm. on the other side of the horizontal diameter.

The author has not seen iritis in any of these thirty-four cases. He finds that the anterior chamber does not leak through oblique punctures, although it used to at times through his earlier direct corneal punctures. He next undermines the conjunctiva over the muscle, resects a semi-lunar piece of conjunctiva, divides the insertion of the muscle, usually resecting a piece of muscle, passes the needles from within outward, through the muscle, which is held by Prince forceps,

and ties the suture. In out-of-town cases he never removes the suture in less than seven days, and in all cases that can return at a suitable time he leaves the suture ten to fourteen days. Good fixation is important. He has watched for post-operative astigmatism, and has seen no instance of its occurrence.

Salus, R. Disturbance of Ocular Muscles in Tetanus. (Klin. Monatsbl. f. Augenh., xlix, p. 322).

In the author's case a wound was caused by a stick of wood which passed through the lower lid of the left eye. Next day the eye was fixed. Four days after this the right eye also became immovable. Spasm of the frontalis, orbicularis, levator palpebrae superioris, and of other facial muscles, produced the characteristic facies tetanica. The palpebral fissure was narrowed and yet closure of the lid could only be accomplished with great effort, as though against strong resistance. This resistance was furnished by the spastically contracted levator palpebrae superioris. The brow was wrinkled and the eyebrows drawn up. The position of the left eye was complicated by traumatic paralysis of the inferior rectus. Before full development of the tetanic state the pupils were normal; at the height of the disease there were anisocoria, miosis and almost complete pupillary rigidity. The author reviews a number of cases from the literature, and states the following as the rule controlling such cases as the one he reports: If the tetanus toxin comes into direct contact with an eye muscle there develops a spastic condition of all the muscles of this eye, which after a short time radiates to the other eye and in other directions (the facial nerve, etc.)

Schmidt, A. Single Stroke Cataract Incision. (Zeitschrift für Augenheilkunde, xxv, p. 28 and p. 154).

This article, thirty-seven pages in length, consists mainly of a preamble in which the mechanics of every part of a cataract incision made in various ways with every kind of cataract knife in use among modern ophthalmologists are laboriously studied and described in mathematical terms. The writer then reviews in general terms the advantages and disadvantages involved in the use of the two main types of knife, of which others are merely modifications, viz., the Beer and the Graefe. The former type is really the only one with which a single-stroke corneal incision (for the usual cataract operation) can strictly speaking be accomplished. But the latter has the great advantage that with it a section that is faultily begun can at any moment be changed for the better. The author's mechanical considerations indicate that the effectual sharpness possible with the Beer and Graefe knife is equal. The probability of obtaining any advantage in case of section by means of any combination of the two knives must be very scant. What may be gained at one part of the incision will be lost at another. The writer (who uses a Graefe knife 2.2 mm. wide) has devised an instrument which aims to avoid the usual distortion of the cornea into a vertical oval during incision. It consists of a narrow metallic arc (almost a semicircle) connected with a handle. The bevelled inferior surface of the arc fits against the sclera along a line corresponding to but 1 mm. distant from the line of incision. From the under surface project five equidistant metallic points, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. in length which penetrate the conjunctiva or the superficial layer of the sclera, and are turned slightly outward to oppose the thrust of the knife. The arc is connected with the handle by an angular stem. Not only is a smooth single-stroke incision facilitated, but approximate fixation of the shape of the eyeball lessens the danger of vitreous prolapse. The author has used the instrument for ten years and has had no prolapse of vitreous during that time.